



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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For Immediate Release

April 8, 2008

**TWO FORMER CHARTER SCHOOL EXECS CHARGED WITH
EMBEZZLING SCHOOL FUNDS**

PHILADELPHIA - United States Attorney Pat Meehan today announced the unsealing of an indictment¹ charging Martha Russell and Viola Bush with one count of conspiracy and one count of alteration of records with the intent to impede the proper administration of a matter within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Justice. The indictment alleges that from 2003 to 2005, Russell, as the Chief Executive Officer of Raising Horizons Quest Charter School, and Bush, Russell's sister and Chief Financial Officer of the school, stole funds intended for the school and later attempted to hide their unlawful activities while being audited by the Philadelphia School District in January 2006.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Martha Russell	Blue Bell, PA	52
Viola Bush	Lansdale, PA	49

If convicted of all charges, the defendants each face a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

This case was investigated by the United States Department of Education and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Morgan-Kelly.

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¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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